UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No. UF-206X First Named Inventor or Application Identifier Eric Bryan Bish

TRANSMITTAL (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

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EE628026168US

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Custome	er Number or Bar Code Label (Insert Cus	fomer No. or Atta	or 🔼 Correspondence address below ach bar code label here)
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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor(s): Eric Bryan Bish, Daniel James Cantliffe, Craig Kellman Chandler

Entitled: Strawberry Transplant Conditioning For Flower Induction

- A Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form accompanies this Fee Transmittal Form.
- The filing fee is calculated below:

	Number fi	led	Number Extr	a Rate	Fee
Basic Fee					\$ 395.00
Total Claims	17	=	0	x \$11	\$ 0
Independent Claims	4	=	1	x \$41	\$ 41.00
Presentation of Multiple Dep	endent Claim(s) (\$16	55)			
				Total Filing Fee	\$ 436.00

- Please charge \$436.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-0065. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0065. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- This application is being mailed by Express Mail under 37 CFR 1.10 and the required certificate appears below.

October 14, 1998	P	
Date	Attorney of Record	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL (37 CFR 1.10)

Express Mail No FFLDANDLILAIIS	Date of Deposit: October 14, 1998
I hereby certify that any paper to come appoints with	Date of Deposit: October 14, 1998 th the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to
	ndicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patent
and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.	
•	Lluendolyn L Wanil
Gwendolyn Daniels	Lumany Ly amus
Name of person mailing paper	Signature

For Strawberry Trensplant Conditioning For Flower Induction VERIFIED STATEMENT (OPECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1-9 () and 1.27 (c)) — NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION I hereby declare that I am an efficial empowered to act on behalf of the nonprofit organization identified below: NAME OF ORGANIZATION University of Florida ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION 223 Ginter Hall TYPE OF ORGANIZATION 23 Ginter Hall Gainesville, FL 32611 TYPE OF ORGANIZATION 123 Ginter Hall UNIVERSITY OR OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION I TAX EXEMPT UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE (26 USC 501(a)(3)) I NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (NAME OF STATE 11 (CITATION OF STATUTE 11 () (10) QUALIFY AS NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA I WOULD QUALIFY AS NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STA AMERICA IF LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (NAME OF STATE 11 (1) AND STATUTE 11 (1) AND	VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (c)) — NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION I hereby declare that I am an official empowered to act on behalf of the nonprofit organization identified below: NAME OF ORGANIZATIONUniversity of Florida ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATIONUNIVERSITY OR OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION [1] TAX EXEMPT UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE (26 USC 501(a)3) [2] UNIVERSITY OR OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION [3] UNIVERSITY OR OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION [4] (NAME OF STATE	VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (e)) — NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION I hereby declare that I am an official empowered to act on behalf of the nonprofit organization identified below: NAME OF ORGANIZATION	ued:			TT		- +	Com	3:1:	i an i	- F		FIA	70.15	The	1110+	· 1 0r								
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The rights held by the above identified nonprofit organization are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights is isted below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business of CFR 1.9 (d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization for the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization for each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invarring their status as small entities. 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ANOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27) NAME ADDRESS [] INDIVIDUAL [] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change of status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity stat to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is not appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b)) I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all-statements made on information and belief are belie true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willfulf alse statements and the like so made are punishable by imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willfulf false statements may jeopardize the vaithe application, any patent its suing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is direct	CITATION OF STATUTE Thereby declare that the above identified nonprofit organization qualifies as a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR CFR 1.9 (d), for of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above-identified paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above-identified paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above-identified invention. 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(37 CFR 1.27) [I] INDIVIDUAL [I] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [I] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION [I] AMME ADDRESS [I] INDIVIDUAL [I] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [I] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION [I] Acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change of status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entopaying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entopaying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entopayorpriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b)) [I] Archiver Archive					ED I	.1И 1П	E UN	HIEL) 31A	IES O	ΓА	MEKI	JA.					,						
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If the rights held by the above identified nonprofit organization are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 19 (e). *NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27) *NAME ADDRESS [] INDIVIDUAL [] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NAME ADDRESS [] INDIVIDUAL [] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change of status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity stat to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no appropriate. 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NAME OF PERSON SIGNING ROMAL MALLA BUSINESS CONCERN [] None of the United Stat	Thereby declare that the above identified nonprofit organization qualifies as a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR CFR 1.9 (d), for of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above-identified paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above-identified paying reduced fees under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the nonprofit organization identified above with regard-ove-identified invention. The the rights held by the above identified nonprofit organization are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the is is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization under 19 (e). **NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27) **NAME_ADDRESS	hereby declare that the above identified nonprofit organization qualifies as a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR CFR 1.9 (of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention described in the above identified invention are leaded to an an an an analysis of the invention are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a nonprofit organization are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invavering their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27) **NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invavering their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27) **ADDRESS** [] INDIVIDUAL [] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NAME ADDRESS** [] INDIVIDUAL [] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change of status resulting in loss of entitlement to small ento paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entappropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b)) I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all-statements and the like so made are punish imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize imprisonment, or both, unde					UTE														,)	-				
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DESCRIPTION

STRAWBERRY TRANSPLANT CONDITIONING FOR FLOWER INDUCTION

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Background of the Invention

Strawberries are an important and valuable crop throughout the world. Due to genetic heterozygosity, adaptability, and plasticity of the plant, this species can grow in varied environments throughout the world, from Alaska to South Africa (Martinelli, A. [1992] "Micropropagation of strawberry (Fragaria spp.)" In: Biotechnology in Agriculture and Forestry 18:354-370, Springer Verlag, Berlin, W. Germany). The high value of the fruit allows for intensive production methods in many regions.

Florida produced approximately 75 million kilograms of strawberries on 2,350 hectares in the 1993-94 season, an average yield of over 32,000 kg ha⁻¹ (Freie, R. and N. Pugh [1995] Florida agricultural statistics: Vegetable Summary 1992-1993, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, FL p. 47-48). Most of the crop is harvested between December and April with peak production occurring in mid-March. The average value of fruit ranged from greater than \$3.00 per kg in November/December declining through the season to less than \$1.00 per kg in March/April. However, only 10% of Florida's strawberry production occurs in November/December when the crop value is highest. Greater than 50% of Florida's production occurs in March/April when fruit value is below production costs (Smith, S. and T. Taylor [1993] "Production cost for selected vegetables in Florida, 1992-93," In: *University of Florida Circular* 1121, Gainesville, FL p.22).

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Commercial strawberry cultivars must be vegetatively propagated because seeds are not true to type. This propagation has traditionally been done in field nurseries to produce a bare-root transplant. There are many problems associated with these bare-root transplants. However, containerized transplants also have drawbacks including being very vegetative and lacking early fruit production. Researchers have studied different methods for initiating early

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flower development in containerized plants. For example, researchers have attempted to place containerized plants in large coolers (without light) to initiate flower buds, but this has not been successful.

Many environmental conditions have been shown to affect strawberry plant growth and development during propagation. See, for example Durner, E.F., E.B. Poling, and E.A. Albregts [1987] "Early season yield responses of selected strawberry cultivars to photoperiod and chilling in a Florida winter production system" *J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 112:53-56; Maas, J.L. [1986] "Photoperiod and temperature effects on starch accumulation in strawberry roots" *Adv. Strawberry Prod.* 5:22-24; Long, J.H. [1935] "Seasonal changes in nitrogen and carbohydrate content of the strawberry plant" *Proc. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 33:386-388 as well as dormancy Bringhurst *et al.*, 1960; and Durner, E.F., J.A. Barden, D.G. Himelrick, and E.B. Poling [1984] "Photoperiod and temperature effects on flower and runner development in day-neutral, Junebearing, and Everbearing strawberries" *J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 109:396-400.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The subject invention concerns methods for enhancing flower induction in strawberry plants. More specifically, one embodiment of the subject invention provides a method for inducing flowering in strawberry plants by reducing the daytime temperature of the strawberry plants. In a preferred embodiment of the subject invention the daytime temperature may be reduced from about 30°C to about 20°C in order to induce flowering.

In a further embodiment of the subject invention, enhanced flower induction can be obtained according to the subject invention by reducing the amount of daylight (photoperiod) to which the strawberry plant is exposed. For example, if the photoperiod in a particular area is about 12 hours, then this can be reduced to a period of time, such as 6-10 hours, sufficient to enhance flower induction. In using this means to enhance flower induction, it is not necessary to reduce the temperature. Alternatively, with the reduced photoperiod the temperature may be reduced to a lesser extent than when a full photoperiod is used.

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The optimal photoperiod and temperature can be readily determined by a person skilled in the art, having the benefit of the instant disclosure, for a particular strawberry plant species in a particular location.

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Detailed Disclosure of the Invention

Advantageously, the method of the subject invention can be used to provide increased production of strawberries at the desirable peak period of the year by inducing flowering of the strawberry plant. This artificially controlled means of enhancing the flowering of the strawberry plant, advantageously, allows for increased strawberry production during the peak demand periods of the year.

In one embodiment of the subject invention, the daylight temperature of the strawberry plant is reduced to enhance the induction of flowering in the strawberry plant. The degrees and time adjustment can be readily determined by the strawberry plant grower for the various strawberry species grown. Containerized strawberry plants can either be subjected to artificially cooling the air or growing the plants at geographic locations in which the air temperature is conducive to flower initiation.

Alternatively, reducing the exposure time of the strawberry plant to daylight also can be done. Further, a combination of these means can be used to enhance flower induction.

In accordance with the subject invention, strawberry transplants can be grown at high temperatures (not conducive to flower formation) for approximately six to ten weeks. These plants can then be subjected to lower temperatures for flower initiation. Temperature and duration is dependent on variety and can be determined by the skilled artisan having the benefit of the instant disclosure. If flowers are formed early in transplant development they may interfere with transplant establishment. Containerized transplants conditioned for flower initiation can produce large quantities of high quality fruit. Early production attains a premium value and therefore justifies additional expense for conditioning plants.

In a preferred embodiment of the subject invention, strawberry plants are induced to flower by reducing the daytime temperature abruptly after a period of growth at temperatures which are sufficiently high such that flowering is not promoted. For example, strawberry

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plants may be grown for a period of several weeks at about 30°C or higher after which time the daytime temperature can be reduced to 25°C or lower. Preferably, the daytime temperature is reduced to about 15 to 20°C. The nighttime temperature may be maintained at about 30°C or higher, or the nighttime temperature may also be reduced.

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In a further embodiment of the subject invention, strawberry plants can be induced to flower by reducing the photoperiod to which the plants are exposed. Preferably, the reduction in photoperiod can be done abruptly. Thus, for example, plants which have been exposed to a photoperiod of 12 hours may have this photoperiod reduced to about 6-10 hours.

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Both the reduction in photoperiod and the reduction in daytime temperature are preferably carried out in a controlled fashion such as in a greenhouse.

The subject invention also concerns a strawberry plant having enhanced flower induction produced by any of the methods, or combination thereof, described herein.

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Following is an example which illustrates procedures for practicing the invention. This example should not be construed as limiting.

Example 1 – Early induction of flowering by cold daytime treatment

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Plug transplants were grown at four temperature regimes (20/30, 20/20, 30/30, 30/20°C day/night) prior to transplanting. Plug transplants grown at 20°C in the day flowered earlier than transplants grown at 30°C daytime temperature.

It should be understood that the example and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be included within the spirit and purview of this application.

Claims

1	1. A method for enhancing flower induction in a strawberry plant, said method
2	comprising reducing the daytime temperature to which said strawberry plant is exposed by
3	an effective amount sufficient to enhance flower induction in said strawberry plant.
1	2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the daytime temperature to which said
2	strawberry plant is exposed to is reduced from about 30°C or higher to about 25°C or lower.
1	3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the daytime temperature to which said
2	strawberry plant is exposed is reduced from about 30°C or higher to about 15 to 20°C.
1	4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the nighttime temperature to which
2	said strawberry plant is exposed to is maintained at about 30°C or higher.
1	5. The method according to claim 1, wherein daytime temperature is reduced by a
2	means selected from the group consisting of artificially cooling the air and changing the
3	geographic location of said strawberry plant.
1	6. A method for enhancing flower induction in a strawberry plant, said method
2	comprising reducing the duration of the photoperiod to which said strawberry plant is
3	exposed by an effective amount sufficient to enhance flower induction in said strawberry
4	plant.
1	7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is
2	reduced by about fifty percent.
1	8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is

reduced to a photoperiod of about six to ten hours.

1	9. The method according to claim 6, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is
2	reduced by a means selected from the group consisting of artificially controlling the duration
3	of the photoperiod and changing the geographic location of said strawberry plant.
1	10. A method for enhancing flower induction in a strawberry plant, said method
2	comprising:
3	a) reducing the daytime temperature to which strawberry plant is exposed; and
4	b) reducing the duration of the photoperiod to which said strawberry plant is
5	exposed,
6	wherein the daytime temperature and duration of the photoperiod are reduced by an effective
7	amount sufficient to enhance flower induction in said strawberry plant.
1	11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the daytime temperature to which
2	said strawberry plant is exposed to is reduced from about 30°C or higher to about 25°C or
3	lower.
1	12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the daytime temperature to which
2	said strawberry plant is exposed is reduced from about 30°C or higher to about 15 to 20°C.
1	12 77
1	13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the nighttime temperature to which
2	said strawberry plant is exposed to is maintained at about 30°C or higher.
1	14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is
2	reduced by about fifty percent.
-	reacted of accounting percent.
1	15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is

reduced to a photoperiod of about six to ten hours.

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16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the duration of the photoperiod is
reduced by a means selected from the group consisting of artificially controlling the duration
of the photoperiod and changing the geographic location of said strawberry plant.

- 17. A strawberry plant having enhanced flower induction produced by a method selected from the group consisting of:
- a) reducing the daytime temperature to which said strawberry plant is exposed by an effective amount sufficient to enhance flower induction in said strawberry plant;
- b) reducing the duration of the photoperiod to which said strawberry plant is exposed by an effective amount sufficient to enhance flower induction in said strawberry plant; and
 - c) a combination of the methods in a) and b).

DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and

I believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below), or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled Straw

Strawberry Transplant	Conditioning For Flor	wer Induction, specification	for which	
☐ is attached	hereto.			
☐ was filed		, Serial No		
I hereby state that I have r by any amendment refer		the contents of the above-iden	tified specification, including	g the claims, as amended
I acknowledge the duty to Code of Federal Regulati		nich is material to the examina	tion of this application in a	accordance with Title 37,
	ted below and have also	: 35, United States Code §119 a identified any foreign applicativity is claimed:		
Application Serial No.	Country	Filing Da	te	Priority Claimed
I hereby claim priority be	enefits under Title 35, U	nited States Code §119 of any	y provisional application(s)) for patent listed below:
Application				
Serial No.		Filing Date	Priority Clai	med
60/061,969		October 14, 1997	Yes	
insofar as the subject matt	er of each of the claims	tates Code, §120 and/or §365 of this application is not discl United States Code, §112, I ad	osed in the prior United St	ates application(s) in the

I herel insofa manne as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application	Filing Date	Status (Patented,
Serial No.		Pending, Abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following persons registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office as my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and all divisions and continuations thereof and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Roman Saliwanchik, Reg. No. 21,023; David R. Saliwanchik, Reg. No. 31,794; Jeff Lloyd, Reg. No. 35,589; Doran R. Pace, Reg. No. 38,261; Christine Q. McLeod, Reg. No. 36,213; Jay M. Sanders, Reg. No. 39,355; James S. Parker, Reg. No. 40,119; Jean Kyle, Reg. No. 36,987; Timothy H. Van Dyke, Reg. No. 43,218.

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